

boasting when the quarry has lost its skin. Canadians carry this sound doctrine to an extreme, and complain if the tail does not come to them with the hide.

In the Ashburton business the Americans were deprived of 900 miles of territory to which they were entitled under the Treaty of Paris. The boundary was pushed back from the heights which flanked Lower Canada, and as much of Maine was cut off as would allow of pretty direct communication between Halifax and Quebec. The strip along northern New York, including Rouse Point, went to the United States; but they had occupied it for sixty-three years, and the fortifications had been erected by themselves. By all the principles of international law it was theirs; and it was a nice piece of diplomacy, giving to them what was their own property in exchange for the privilege which they accepted of paying for the upkeep of a squadron on the coast of Africa where they had no interests whatever. Finally, they were induced to assent to an extradition clause by which England was enabled to recapture her subjects, whether innocent or guilty; and to secure political offenders whilst professing to take only common felons; and, worst infamy of all, questions which they desired to have settled were omitted or indefinitely adjourned.

Yet Canadians protested with an appearance of simplicity and earnestness, until the full humour of the situation was too apparent, that they should have had the harbour of Portland as well; and they gave a sense of reality by their self-abnegation in putting forward no claim to Boston, New York, or the Gulf of Mexico.

By the Oregon award Canada recovered one-half of that enormous territory lying between the parallels of 42° and 54° 40', including all that area between the Rocky Mountains and the sea, extending from Alaska to California, which would soon have been wholly won by the United States, and held by the best of all titles, namely, effective occupation; and yet Canadians lamented for half a century that the valley of the Columbia had been filched away from them.